

Message Text

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EUR/SOV: R. WINDSOR
EPA/ORD: W. SWAIN
EPA/EXECSEC: P. SHOSTAL
EPA/OIA: A. B. POPKIN
OES/APT/SEP: D. CRAMER
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TAGS: SENV, US, UR

SUBJECT:US-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT: PROJECT 02.02-13,
EFFECT OF POLLUTANTS UPON AQUATIC ORGANISMS AND ECOSYSTEMS;
DEVELOPMENT OF WATER QUALITY CRITERIA

1. REQUEST EMBASSY PASS FOLLOWING LETTER FROM US PROJECT
LEADER SWAIN TO BUTORIN WITH COPY TO KAZAKOV.

2. MARCH 23, 1978 02.02-13

DR. I. V. BUTORIN
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DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGY OF INLAND WATERS
USSR ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
NEKOUZOKIY RAYON
YAROSLAVSKAYA OBLAST
P/O BOROK 152742

DEAR DR. BUTORIN:

I HAVE JUST RECEIVED YOUR LETTER OF FEBRUARY 10 AND LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING YOUR EARLY COMMENTS ON OUR UPCOMING JOINT WORK.

VERY SOON I MUST BEGIN TO PREPARE FOR THE EXCHANGE OF SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL AND THEIR INSTRUMENTS. THIS IS NECESSARY BECAUSE I MUST OBLIGATE AND COMMIT MONEY IN ADVANCE TO INSURE THAT ALL THE SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT, WHICH IS SENT IN ADVANCE OF THE SPECIALISTS, WILL BE IN GOOD WORKING ORDER PRIOR TO SHIPMENT TO YOUR LABORATORY. AS A RESULT, I AM SENDING THIS CABLE TO REQUEST YOUR CONCURRENCE IN FORMALIZING OUR SUMMER EXCHANGE.

AT THE TIME OF THE WORKING GROUP MEETING, AND AGAIN AT THE TIME OF YOUR VISIT TO THE USA IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER OF 1977, WE AGREED UPON THE EXCHANGE OF TWO GROUPS OF SPECIALISTS; EACH GROUP CONSISTING OF TWO SCIENTISTS. THE FIRST GROUP WAS TO BE ORIENTED TOWARD THE INVESTIGATION OF TOXIC ORGANIC COMPOUNDS IN THE AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM. PERSONNEL FROM THIS GROUP WOULD BE EXCHANGED FOR A PERIOD OF 60 DAYS. THE SECOND GROUP WOULD CONSIST OF SPECIALISTS ORIENTED TOWARD ACCUMULATION AND BIOCONCENTRATION OF TOXIC ORGANIC COMPOUNDS IN FISH. IT IS MY CONTINUING UNDERSTANDING THAT BOTH OF THESE GROUPS WILL WORK WITH COUNTERPARTS FROM YOUR LABORATORY, THE INSTITUTE FOR THE BIOLOGY OF INLAND WATERS, AND THAT THE UNCLASSIFIED

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JOINT WORK WILL BE CONDUCTED IN BOROK.

WE WOULD, THEREFORE, PROPOSE THAT THE SPECIALISTS TO BE EXCHANGED FROM THE US SIDE FOR GROUP I, TOXIC ORGANIC COMPOUNDS IN THE AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM, WOULD INCLUDE DR. LEONARD MUELLER OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY LABORATORY IN DULUTH (DR. D. I. MOUNT'S LABORATORY), AND DR. AL BOURQUIN OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY LABORATORY IN GULF BREEZE (DR. T. DUKE'S AND DR. T. T. DAVIES' LABORATORY). WE PROPOSE THAT THIS GROUP ARRIVE IN THE USSR ON OR ABOUT JUNE 15, 1978, WITH PLANS TO DEPART ON OR ABOUT AUGUST 15, 1978. DEPARTURE ON OR ABOUT THIS DATE WILL ENABLE DR. BOURQUIN TO ATTEND A SCIENTIFIC MEETING IN EUROPE IN AUGUST, AT WHICH HE IS SCHEDULED TO PRESENT A PAPER.

WE WOULD FURTHER PROPOSE THAT THE SPECIALISTS ORIENTED TOWARD ACCUMULATION OF TOXIC MATERIALS IN FISH CONSIST OF DR. DAVID STALLING AND DR. FOSTER MAYER, BOTH OF THE FISH PESTICIDE LABORATORY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI (DR. R. SCHOETTGER'S LABORATORY). WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THESE SPECIALISTS ARRIVE IN THE USSR ON OR ABOUT AUGUST 7, 1978, IN ORDER TO SLIGHTLY OVERLAP THE DEPARTURE OF THE FIRST GROUP. THIS IS

CONSIDERED TO BE OF IMPORTANCE BECAUSE BOTH GROUPS WILL BE USING MUCH OF THE SAME INSTRUMENTATION. THE PRESENCE OF THE FIRST GROUP AT THE TIME OF ARRIVAL OF THE SECOND GROUP WILL ELIMINATE PREPARATION AND SET-UP TIME OF THE INSTRUMENTS, THUS ENABLING THE PERIOD OF STAY IN BOROK TO BE USED FOR PRODUCTIVE WORK. IF VISITS TO OTHER SCIENTIFIC LABORATORIES ARE PLANNED FOR THE SECOND GROUP PRIOR TO THEIR ARRIVAL IN BOROK, IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO ADVANCE THE ARRIVAL TIME OF GROUP TWO IN ORDER TO ASSURE CONTINUITY OF THE PROGRAM. BECAUSE OF THE RELATIVELY SHORTER STAY OF THE GROUP EXAMINING THE ACCUMULATION OF TOXIC ORGANIC SUBSTANCES IN FISH, IT APPEARS THAT IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM YOUR LABORATORY IN GATHERING SPECIMENS PRIOR TO THE ARRIVAL OF THE SPECIALISTS IN BOROK. IF POSSIBLE, WE WOULD REQUEST

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THAT FISH SAMPLE COLLECTIONS BE MADE FROM TWO AREAS: 1) AN AREA OF SUSPECTED ORGANOCHLORINE PESTICIDE CONTAMINATION, AND 2) AN AREA OF AN UNCONTAMINATED RIVERINE SYSTEM. WE WOULD HOPE TO HAVE ACCESS TO TWO AGE CLASSES OF FISH IN EACH OF THESE AREAS, THE ZERO TO ONE YEAR AGE CLASS, AND A TWO TO FOUR YEAR AGE CLASS. THIS WOULD PROVIDE A SAMPLE MATRIX AS FOLLOWS:

	NUMBER OF FISH	
	CONTAMINATED	UNCONTAMINATED
ZERO TO 1 YEAR AGE CLASS	20	20
2-4 YEAR AGE CLASS	20	20

IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, FISH SHOULD BE COLLECTED, THEIR AGES, WEIGHTS, AND LENGTHS DETERMINED AND FROZEN IN METAL FOIL BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF THE US SPECIALISTS IN GROUP II. IF TIME PERMITS, ADDITIONAL SAMPLES OF PREDATORY AND MIGRATORY SPECIES COULD BE ANALYZED OR PROCESSED FOR FUTURE JOINT STUDIES AT THE TIME SOVIET SPECIALISTS VISIT THE USA. SAMPLES WILL BE ANALYZED FOR ORGANOCHLORINE RESIDUES AND COLLAGEN CONTENT OF BACKBONE MATERIAL TO DETERMINE CORRELATIONS OF ACCUMULATION OF RESIDUES WITH BIOCHEMICAL STRESS AS AN INDICATOR OF POPULATION HEALTH.

FOR BOTH EXCHANGE GROUPS IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO RETURN SOME SAMPLES TO THE US FOR DETERMINATION OF VALIDITY AND CONFIRMATION OF ANALYSES BY MASS SPECTROSCOPY, AND FOR HYDROXY PROLINE AND PROLINE STUDIES OF VERTEBRAE IN THE CASE OF THE SPECIALISTS INTERESTED IN ACCUMULATION OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES.

WE WOULD ANTICIPATE RECEIVING OUR SOVIET COLLEAGUES FROM YOUR LABORATORY FOR EQUIVALENT PERIODS OF TIME AFTER THE

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RETURN OF THE US SPECIALISTS, PROBABLY BEGINNING DURING THE
FIRST PART OF SEPTEMBER.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT I HEAR FROM YOU BY APRIL 7, 1978, SINCE
I MUST BEGIN SHIPMENT OF THE SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS TO BOROK
IN APRIL IN ORDER TO ENSURE THEIR RECEIPT PRIOR TO THE
ARRIVAL OF THE US SPECIALISTS. PLEASE ACCEPT MY SINCERE
THANKS FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS. ALSO, PLEASE CONVEY MY BEST
WISHES AND WARMEST REGARDS TO YOUR WIFE AND DAUGHTER AND TO
ALL MY FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES AT THE INSTITUTE.

SINCERELY YOURS,

WAYLAND R. SWAIN, PH.D.
DIRECTOR, LARGE LAKES RESEARCH STATION VANCE

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